

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, April 15, 2019  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☒ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☐ Region 6: TBD
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk  
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington  
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

***Support Personnel***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Contract Support

**Action Items**

1. Joel Scheraga's presentation will be rescheduled for a future TSC conference call.

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: TBD
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☒ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☐ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☒ Region 9: Rebecca Jameson
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☐ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☐ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauuff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☐ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☒ OW: Karen Gude

***Invited Speakers/Guests***

- ☒ Patrick Bustos, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Mark Junker, Tribal Waste and Response  
Steering Committee
- ☒ Sang Don Lee, EPA Office of Research and  
Development
- ☒ Joel Scheraga, EPA Office of Policy
- ☒ Chris Taylor, EPA Region 7
- ☒ Stephen Wolfe (Seneca-Cayuga Nation)

2. José Zambrana will send information to the TSC members about submitting presentation abstracts for a session on indigenous knowledge at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (SETAC) meeting in Toronto in November 2019.
3. Monica Rodia will forward to the TSC members information about a decontamination conference being held in Norfolk, Virginia, in November 2019.

### **Key Discussion Points**

#### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica took the roll of teleconference participants and explained that the March 2019 monthly call summary had been finalized and distributed to the members. She urged members to read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities and action items.

#### ***National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) Meeting Report Outs***

- Jeff Mears met with representatives from other EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups the day prior to attending the NTOC meeting the week of April 8, 2019, in Washington, D.C. An interesting discussion focused on food sovereignty, and Jeff would like the TSC to keep this topic on its radar. It is important for the EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups to meet with the NTOC and each other to ensure that tribal issues are addressed efficiently without duplicative efforts.
- José was able to attend the final day of the NTOC meeting, at which Kacee Deener presented about the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) engagement with tribes during the Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) development process. The upcoming tribal consultation on the StRAPs was discussed, as well. EPA's Chief Innovation Officer presented about citizen science. During the NTOC meeting, the National Tribal Caucus described its key issues, which align with those of the TSC (e.g., data defensibility, lead). José is proud of the partnerships that the TSC is building with the other EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups.

#### ***Tribal Waste and Response (TWAR) Steering Committee 2019 Priorities, Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, and Mark Junker, Chair, TWAR Steering Committee***

- The TWAR Steering Committee was established in 2009 under a cooperative agreement between the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM). The committee comprises up to 10 tribal professionals working in the areas of solid waste, Superfund, underground storage tanks, emergency response and/or brownfields, who serve 2-year terms. Tribal professionals may apply for open positions each year. The committee meets bimonthly, either via teleconference or in person.
- TWAR Steering Committee and ITEP staff solicit feedback from tribal personnel to develop priorities. During an annual face-to-face meeting, the TWAR Steering Committee meets with OLEM staff in Washington, D.C., to discuss responses to the prior year's priorities and develop the next annual priority document. The priority document is shared with EPA and the National Tribal Caucus.
- The 2019 priority document focuses on cross-programmatic priorities for EPA, including increasing communication among EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups, increasing use of traditional ecological knowledge, participating in tribal resilience planning activities, encouraging attendance at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, and leveraging resources to increase tribal capacity. Additional priorities have been identified in the areas of solid waste, brownfields, underground storage tanks, Superfund, federal facilities, emergency preparedness and response, and the EPA Office of Enforcement of

Compliance Assurance. Full details are available in the *Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee 2019 Priorities* document that the TSC members received with the meeting materials.

- At 2019 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum to be held in Palm Springs, California, August 19–22, 2019, the TWAR Steering Committee plans to discuss a comprehensive risk assessment for tribal pathways, which the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) recommended that EPA develop. The Steering Committee plans to host a meeting of the EPA-Tribal Partnership Group leads during the forum.
- Paige Hingst and Mark Junker encouraged the TSC members to bring forward any priorities that could be introduced to the TWAR Steering Committee for consideration in future priority documents.
- José has been discussing expanded tribal exposure scenarios with his colleagues, who are interested in participating in such an effort. Food sovereignty also could be included in the effort. Lon Kissinger added that Region 10 has completed a good deal of work on tribal exposure scenarios (e.g., fish consumption), and he volunteered his expertise.
- José noted that the TWAR priorities complement the research priorities of ORD's Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program and Homeland Security Research Program, and he would like the TSC to pursue the science aspects behind the priorities and work with ORD to develop research projects to address them.

#### ***Announcements***

- Joel would like to demonstrate EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) website to the TSC to obtain the members' feedback. He chairs a cross-EPA climate change workgroup comprising representatives from all programs and regions. The workgroup is committed to supporting tribes in their efforts to anticipate and prepare for climate change effects. ARC-X is the first step to initiate a dialogue with tribes about what they need from EPA to support their climate change preparation efforts.
- José has been participating on SETAC's Indigenous Knowledge and Values Global Interest Group. SETAC's next meeting in North America will be held in Toronto, November 3–7, 2019. The workgroup's proposed session at the meeting about the intersection of indigenous and western science frameworks was accepted. José invited the TSC members to submit abstracts to present at the session, entitled "Western Research Methods and Indigenous Knowledge: Collaborative Approaches Toward Environmental Quality and Integrity." José will send the appropriate information to the TSC members. EPA may be able to support travel for TSC members to present.
- Jeff announced that he will be attending the University of Wisconsin–Madison Nelson Institute's Earth Day Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, on April 22, 2019, to discuss a climate change training module developed for health care professionals. He also is attending the National Adaptation Forum in Madison the same week.
- Neil Patterson will be attending the Rising Voices annual workshop in Boulder, Colorado, in May 2019. The Convention on Biodiversity Conservation is holding an international meeting in Montreal about biocultural indicators. The Haudenosaunee is initiating a confederacy-wide discussion on climate change, including the importance of vocabulary. The effort will identify indigenous words and terms to frame the climate change conversation.
- Stephen Wolfe explained that Rick DuBois no longer works for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and he will do his best to take over Rick's responsibilities.

- Joshua Tweeton announced that the Region 8 Regional Tribal Operations Committee is holding its next meeting jointly with Region 10 in Fort Hall, Idaho, in June 2019.
- Page thanked everyone who offered to help her tribe during the recent massive flooding. The tribe is testing its water and moving into the cleanup phase.
- Lon reported that EPA has approved the state of Idaho's water quality criteria. Of concern is the fact that tribal subsistence consumption of fish was not considered an appropriate factor in setting the criteria. EPA is reviewing the state of Washington's water quality criteria and may reopen them.
- Dave Jewett explained that ORD is working with Alex Cabillo of the Hualapai Tribe to assess water technologies. Blase Leven, Coordinator of Kansas State University's Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program, will present during the TSC's May science seminar.
- Sang Don Lee, Acting Deputy National Program Director of ORD's Homeland Security Research Program, explained that the program is developing tools and collecting information to support program offices, regions and stakeholders in providing emergency response. The program supports an annual decontamination conference; the next one will be held in November 2019 in Norfolk, Virginia. He will send the conference information to Monica to distribute to the TSC.
- Lon and José provided their perspectives on the recent NTTC meeting. Lon noted that a key aspect was a discussion about including tribal exposure scenarios in Toxic Substances Control Act chemical evaluations. He was pleased that participants were receptive to the inclusion of these scenarios. Lon presented at the meeting about tribal fish consumption rates compared with that of the average population and the inability of water quality standards developed from average scenarios to protect tribal members. José enjoyed learning about the history and ecosystem of the area surrounding the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Discussion at the meeting also included the potential to develop a follow-up workshop on tribal exposure scenarios.

***Next TSC Teleconference***

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on May 20, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.